



PARRA NOTES

Friday, July 1

Amidst all the good that has happened these last few days it was a very sad week in the Capitol. My friend and colleague, Assemblymember **Mike Gordon** passed away this past weekend at his El Segundo home due to complications from a brain tumor. He was 47 years old. Mike leaves behind his wife of 13 years, Denise, and four children. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Last Friday, I joined the **Governor** in **Fresno** as he signed an **Executive Order** that will establish "**A California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**." I am thrilled about this. The potential to bring needed resources to the Valley will significantly increase. You will find more detailed information about this new partnership under "**Legislative Update**". Later that day, I drove to **Bakersfield** where I held my second Southern 30th Assembly District **Public Safety Advisory group** meeting. **Mike Dayton**, Deputy Director for the **State Office of Homeland Security**, along with Commander **Craig Porter** from the **Kern County Sheriff's Department**, Chief **Jack Griggs** from the **Delano Police Department** and **Lt. Brian Parriott** from the **Wasco State Prison** were just a few that were present to offer valuable insight on public safety matters. You might remember that a few weeks ago we held a similar meeting in **Hanford**. In this most recent meeting, law enforcement officials expressed a need for more centralized training among police departments.

On Saturday, I along with the **Latina Leaders of Kern County** hosted a luncheon in **Bakersfield** to recognize the 35 youth that participated in the **Latina Action Day Youth Mentorship Program**. After the event, I drove to **Wasco** where I was given a tour of the **Wasco Prison** by **California Correctional Peace Officer's Association** President **Mike Jimenez**.

Legislative Update

Several of my bills went before various Senate Committees this week. Below you will find a list of the bills that moved forward.

ACR 58 Foster Care will recognize the rights of foster youth as critical to ensuring their well-being and future. ACR 58 will also urge the State Departments of Social Services, Education, Mental Health and other designated entities to develop practices to inform foster youth of their rights and available resources.

* Passed by the Senate Committee on Human Services. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 208 Military Families (Education) will require school districts to give preference to the children of military personnel in the process of an interdistrict transfer. The goal of AB 208 is to begin to address a historic problem that causes additional complications for many military families transferring to California.

* Passed by the Senate Education Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 437 Megan's Law Conviction-Date on Web will require that an individual's conviction and prison release date be available on the Megan's law database.

* Passed by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 439 Megan's Law Conviction will clarify existing law regarding registration responsibilities. It makes it clear that an individual must continue to register even if their conviction is expunged. The bill would also require certain registered sex offenders to notify law enforcement of a change in address either in person, by registered, or certified mail.

* Passed by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 460 Vet Quarantine will strengthen the ability for the State Veterinarian to implement quarantines to stop any outbreak from spreading rapidly. The bill will act as a preventative measure by creating standards for sanitation.

* Approved by the Senate Health Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 649 Tomato Commission will provide that the commission shall establish an assessment for tomatoes produced inside and outside of the state and establishes a procedure to ensure the safety of fresh tomatoes.

* Passed by the Senate Agriculture Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1110 Home-to- School Transportation Block Grant will ensure that the most under funded educational state program, home-to-school transportation, be given desperately needed funding. The bill will ensure that school transportation also be given a yearly cost of living increase. This would benefit rural school districts who have disproportionately higher transportation costs because they serve fewer students per square mile and as a result, must transport greater numbers of pupils over longer distances.

* Passed by the Senate Education Committee. Headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

BUDGET

A new version of the state budget was presented before the Assembly this week, but was not voted on. This new budget differs from the previous one in several ways. One of the many changes it includes is the repayment of \$525 million of the VLF (Vehicle License Fee) gap loan to local governments with the authority to repay the entire amount in the budget year – the Governor limits the repayment to \$593 million in the budget year. Negotiations will continue over the weekend and into next week. I am hopeful we will see a budget within the next few weeks. I will continue to keep you posted as things develop.

A CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

As I mentioned earlier, this past Friday, I had the honor of joining Governor Schwarzenegger in **Fresno** as he signed an Executive Order that will establish “**A California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.**” Similar to legislation I introduced this year in **AB 31**, the partnership will identify projects and programs that will best utilize public dollars and most

quickly improve the economic vitality of the Valley, especially those that leverage federal, state, local and private sector resources in a coordinated effort to address the critical needs of the Valley. I will continue to move forward with my legislation **AB 31** to ensure that the partnership is extended beyond November of 2006.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Many of you expressed concern to me over **SB 820** (Kuehl), a comprehensive bill on water issues. This bill will make far-reaching changes to the laws affecting water planning and water rights. This week it went before the Assembly Committee on Water Parks and Wildlife and it passed only after significant amendments were made to the bill. It is now headed to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. I will continue to monitor this legislation and keep you posted.

Other Highlights

DELANO RESIDENT JOINS PARRA TEAM

Again this week, I had the pleasure of welcoming another individual to my Capitol staff, 19 year-old **Delano** native and Bill Gates Millennium Scholar **Andrew Barragan**. Andrew has joined my staff as a summer intern. He currently attends Stanford University where he is double majoring in Political Science and Psychology. His love for government and politics has motivated him to get involved in Student Government where serves as one of fifteen Student Senators. He graduated from Delano High School in 2004 as class Valedictorian.

HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

On Tuesday, Dr. David Carlisle, Director for the **Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)**, participated in a conference call with members of my Health Advisory Group. Dr. Carlisle spoke about the Department's commitment to make health care more accessible. By making grant information more obtainable to health care organizations, we achieve that goal. If you would like more information on health care related grants please contact **Candace Diamond** at **OSHPD** by calling **(916) 654-1606** or by visiting www.OSHPD.ca.gov . To join the Health Advisory Group please contact **Frank Stiger** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov .

FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE

On **July 9th**, I will be hosting a Foster Care Conference at **California State University Bakersfield's Student Union Building** from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Registration begins at **8:00 a.m.** Joining me will be several organizations who will inform foster care youth and parents of available resources and rights. This event is open to the public. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at my Bakersfield District office at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov .

SUMMER INTERNS WANTED

I am presently accepting applications for my summer internship program in my Hanford and Bakersfield district offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley.

Applications can be found at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>. For more details, please contact Richard Valle at the Hanford office at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov . For Bakersfield office internships please contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov .

GRANTS

Beginning mid July my office will be distributing grant packages. Included in the package will be information regarding, state, federal and private grants. For more information please contact Juan Cerda at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Juan.Cerda@asm.ca.gov

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